

SHADOW ARMY IN IRAQ



Hired for security,
Blackwater USA faces
charges of killing civilians

Currently about 160,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq, but many people don't realize that there are also about 180,000 people in Iraq working for the U.S. military through private companies. Called "military contractors," some of these private companies are hired to provide security — including guarding U.S. officials, training military recruits and supplying the Army with back-up helicopters and pilots. One of the largest of these companies is Blackwater USA.

On September 16, Blackwater employees shot at cars driving through Nunsoor Square in Baghdad, killing 17 unarmed Iraqi civilians. Blackwater says its men were defending themselves and should not be in trouble. But, an independent Iraqi investigation found that Blackwater employees opened fire on the Iraqis without any reason.

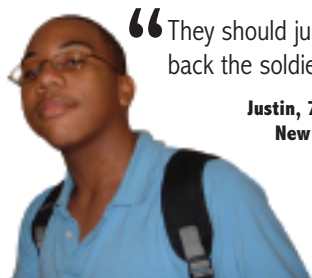
Government records show that Blackwater forces have been involved in an unusually high number of violent events. But since not all of these are reported, no

one knows for sure how many Iraqis have been killed by Blackwater or other professional security companies. Until the Baghdad shootings, employees of Blackwater and similar security companies could not be charged in U.S. courts for crimes in Iraq, unlike U.S. soldiers.

The event has made many people look more closely at the company and the role of private military contractors. Congress has opened an investigation into Blackwater and the Iraqi government is demanding that Blackwater leave the country. —INDYKIDS STAFF

WHAT KIDS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE WAR

Sixty-four percent of Americans would like to see U.S. troops out of Iraq within a year according to polls by Rasmussen Reports. Here's what some kids have to say about the U.S. war in Iraq.



“They should just bring back the soldiers.”

Justin, 7th grade
New York City



“The war in Iraq should stop. It's killing their people and it's taking too many people from the U.S.”

Arryana, 5th grade
Oakland, Calif.



“I feel bad because a girl's leg got exploded. There's no life over there.”

Anelyn, 7th grade
New York City



“They're fighting for oil and it's stupid to fight over that.”

Kevari, 5th grade
Oakland, Calif.

MEXICO QUICK FACTS

Population: 108 million • **Capital:** Mexico City • **Languages:** Spanish (official language); 62 indigenous languages • **Religions:** Roman Catholic (76%); Protestant (6%)
President: Felipe Calderon • **Poverty:** 50% of Mexicans live in poverty

MEET JESUS PEDRO FROM MEXICO

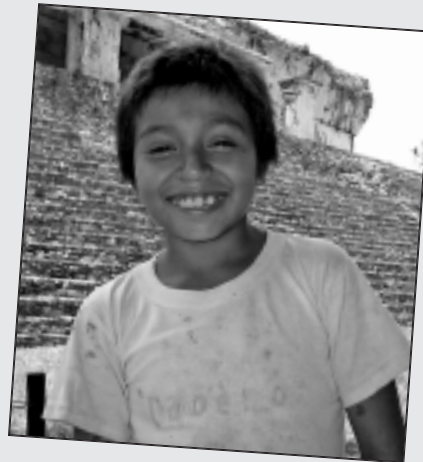
Name: Jesus Pedro Lopez Perez, age 9 **Home:** Chiapas, Mexico

Languages: Ch'ol, one of seven indigenous languages spoken in Chiapas, and some Spanish.

School: Jesus Pedro does not go to school. He wants to go to school, but the school won't accept him because he's too old for primary school and he doesn't meet the academic requirements for secondary school. The reason why he missed so much school is that he is usually helping his grandmother with their farm.

Work: Jesus Pedro and his family plant corn, beans, pumpkins, avocados and oranges. They produce a lot of corn, which can be used for tortillas, tamales (cornmeal wrapped in corn leaves with vegetables and meat), posol (a cold, sweet drink) and atol (a warm drink made from corn). Jesus Pedro also goes with his aunt to the archeological ruins of Palenque, where they sell handmade souvenirs to tourists.

Hobbies: Playing soccer and video games and watching movies. —JUDI CHENG



Learn a little Ch'ol!

How are you? bajche anety, pronounced "bua-chay anet"

What's your name? chuc a cabaj, pronounced "chwak ahbak"



People watch an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at a meatpacking plant in Colorado last winter. An immigration raid is a sudden attack by officials searching for immigrants to deport.

Immigrant Families Threatened by Raids

By Erin Thompson

Peggy Delarosa-Delgado is an immigrant from the Dominican Republic who became a U.S. citizen in 1990 and lives in Long Island, New York. In September, her house was mistakenly raided by armed immigration officials looking for an "undocumented" immigrant. Even though the immigration officials had the wrong address, they broke into Delarosa-Delgado's home and frightened her whole family.

"It's not right," Delarosa-Delgado told *The New York Times* in October. "My kids were scared. They had to sit in the living room like little criminals."

An estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States. "Undocumented" means that they do not have legal status to live or work in the United States. Many of these immigrants came to the United States because they cannot find jobs in their home countries. In the United States, many of these immigrants work jobs, raise families and live like any other U.S. citizen.

However, since November 2005, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been given authority by Congress to conduct armed raids on the homes and businesses of undocumented immigrants and arrest

them. According to the ICE, 195,000 undocumented immigrants were arrested last year alone.

Once arrested, the immigrants are **deported** (sent back to their home countries).

Often this process separates families, because it forces parents to choose between leaving their U.S.-born children in the United States or taking them back to their home countries. "We have to stop families being torn apart. We have

“It's not right. My kids were scared. They had to sit in the living room like little criminals.”

Peggy Delarosa-Delgado

to stop people who have worked for decades in the U.S. being sent back to Mexico and having no job and no place to live," Mexican activist Elvira Arellano told the Catholic News Service in October.

Arellano was deported by U.S. immigration officials in August and had to choose between leaving her son, a U.S. citizen, in the United States, or taking him to Mexico, her home country. She eventually decided to take her son with her, and now lives in Mexico.

YOUNG IMMIGRANTS DISCUSS LIFE IN U.S.

For immigrant teens, the transition to the U.S. hasn't been exactly what they expected, as Children's PressLine editors from Bronx International High School found out when they interviewed their classmates.

“At first, I was not used to the environment of the U.S. compared to Africa. In America, you have to be strong to survive the first couple years of middle school. I've had a lot of challenges like learning English. For a bilingual person, it is hard to learn in class without being picked on or being made fun of because of the way you speak. After I picked up English in less than a year everything became easier.” —KARR SUMBUR, 16, FROM CAMEROON, WEST AFRICA

“Even though it is much easier here and I love this country, I'm not going to stay here forever. I want to make a lot of improvements and some changes in my country. Over there the president is not really doing a good job, but there is more peace in Africa than here. I'm not talking about all parts of Africa, but in my country, Guinea. Here, every single day you hear about violence and racism.” —FATOUMATA SANGARE, 17, FROM GUINEA, WEST AFRICA

—Compiled by Mamadou Cire Diallo, 17, and Adoyi Yanoussou, 18 / Children's PressLine

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. *IndyKids* is funded through donations and grants.

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 New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
 New York Public Library: www.nypl.org
 Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
 Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact *IndyKids*! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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- Mona Sehgal & Jacob Levich
- Marj & Larry Long
- Neal Stone
- Xavier Tayo



BMC

MONKS DEMAND DEMOCRACY

A Buddhist monk in the Southeast Asian country of Burma holds a begging bowl upside down as a symbol of protest against his government. Almost 90 percent of the population of Burma is Buddhist and monks are considered to be very holy. For several weeks in September, thousands of Burmese monks led peaceful protests against the country's military dictatorship, calling for a reduction in fuel prices and demanding democracy. The military responded with violence, injuring and killing many of the protesters.

Turkey Attacks Kurds Along Iraq Border

By Amanda Vender

The military of the government of Turkey built up its troops along Turkey's border with Iraq in late October. Turkey threatened to invade northern Iraq where the Kurds live. This region is considered to be safer than the rest of Iraq. Many are concerned that an invasion could widen the war in Iraq and lead to more deaths.

Turkey crossed the Iraq border and attacked a Kurdish independence group called the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) after the PKK killed as many as 17 Turkish soldiers. Turkey accuses the Iraqi and U.S. governments of protecting the PKK in Iraq. But Kirim Yildiz of the Kurdish Human Rights Project says that Turkey's military actions are about something



SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

A Kurdish fighter stands guard at sunrise. The country of Turkey has threatened to cross the border into Iraq to take out Kurdish rebels, which Turkey calls "terrorists."

much larger than the PKK. "They do not want to see any development in relation to the Kurdish self-determina-

tion (independence) in Iraq," Yildiz told the news program Democracy Now.

TALKING TURKEY

Turkey: A country in southeastern Europe. The U.S. government supplies Turkey with large amounts of military aid and weapons.

Kurdish people: An ethnic indigenous minority who live in a region that spans Turkey, Iraq,

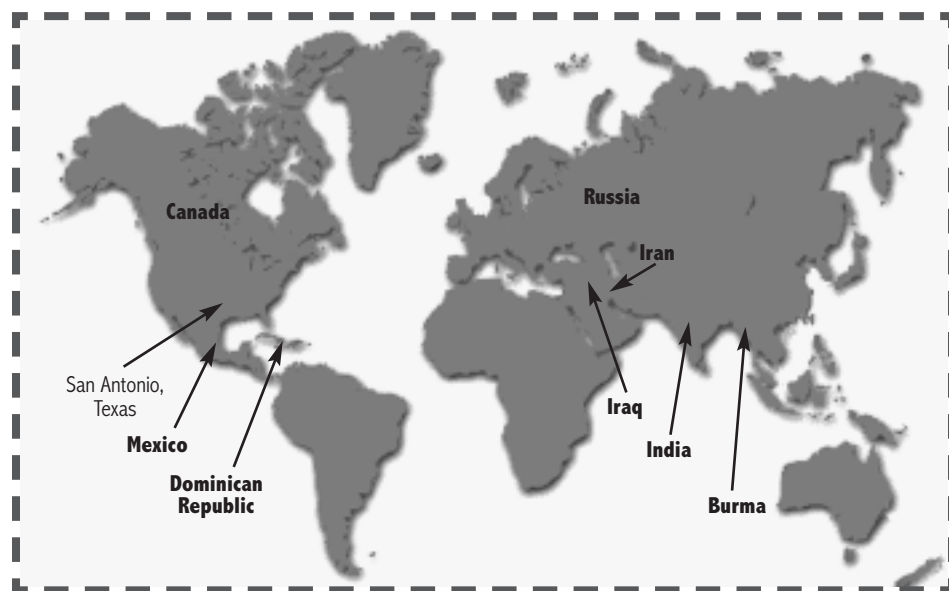
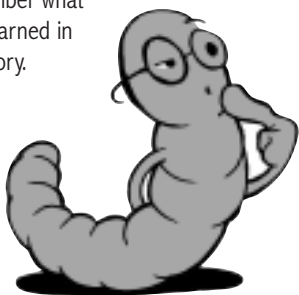
Iran and Syria. In Turkey, Kurdish people are not allowed to speak their language, are displaced by the Turkish military and are repressed by the Turkish government when they resist. But the Kurdish people control their

own region of the country across the border in Iraq.

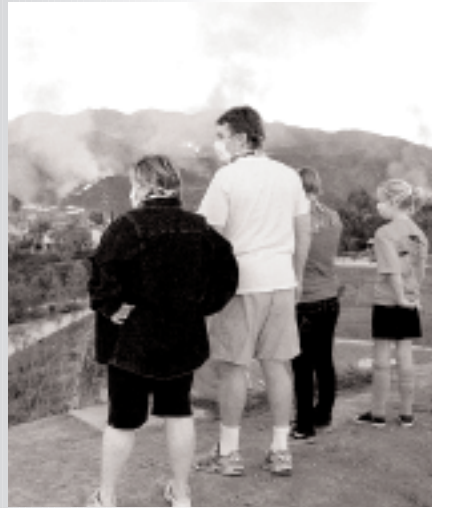
Kurdish Workers Party (PKK): A group that was created to fight for the independence of the Kurdish people.

BE A GLOBAL READER

Using the map on the right, Wilton can find some of the countries and places that he just read about in *IndyKids*. Looking at the map after you read will help you remember what you learned in the story.



news briefs



KEVIN LABIANCO/WWW.KLABIANCO.COM

NATION

Fires in Southern California

As fires raged in southern California in late October, between one half million and one million people were forced to leave their homes. More than one thousand buildings were destroyed and at least five people died. Scientists say that global warming has helped create drier summers and a longer fire season in the region and that more big fires are likely.

—AV

Newsrooms Lack Diversity

The people who work for daily newspapers are not a very diverse group according to the annual survey of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. While the population of the United States that is not white is 33 percent, only 13.6 percent of journalists are people of color, down slightly from 2006.

—AV



UNITS.ORG

Gap Grows Between Rich, Poor

Data from tax records shows that the gap between the rich and poor in the United States is bigger than at any time since the 1920's. The richest top one percent of Americans earned 21.2 percent of all U.S. income earned in 2005 while the bottom half earned 12.8 percent of all income.

—AV

WORLD

Kasparov Makes His Move



PSLWEB.ORG

Chess champion grandmaster Garry Kasparov, left, is running for President of Russia against President Vladimir Putin. Kasparov retired from chess in 2005 and since then has been one of

President Putin's most vocal critics. However, polls show that Kasparov has little chance of winning.

—SS

More Steps Toward War

Relations between the United States and Iran became worse when on October 25 the Bush government announced new sanctions (punishments) on Iran. Bush named part of the Iranian military a "foreign terrorist organization" and encouraged other governments and businesses to cut ties with Iran.

—AV



DID YOU KNOW?

- ✦ Up to 40 percent of bottled water comes from tap water.
- ✦ People in the U.S. spent \$11 billion on bottled water in 2006.
- ✦ Each day 60 million plastic water bottles are thrown away. Most are not recycled.
- ✦ More than one billion people in the world lack access to safe drinking water.
- ✦ By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will lack access to water.

PUBLIC VERSUS PRIVATE

Public:

- ✦ Tap water
- ✦ Maintained by local governments
- ✦ Not to make money
- ✦ Public citizens have more control

Private:

- ✦ Bottled water and water companies
- ✦ Maintained by private corporations
- ✦ To make money for the owners
- ✦ Public citizens have less control

THE CORPORATIONS BEHIND BOTTLED WATER

Nestle owns: Poland Spring, Purelife, Deer Park

Coca-Cola owns: Dasani, Vitamin Water

Pepsi owns: Aquafina

PAYING MORE FOR THE SAME THING

1 bottle of water like this one (20 ounces) sells for **1 dollar**. But look how many glasses of tap water you could get for only **1 cent!**



That's **51** pint glasses of tap water for just 1 cent. Don't drink 'em all at once!

Water makes up nearly two-thirds of a person's body. Everyone needs it to live. Most of us in the United States don't have to worry about getting enough clean water because it is purified and provided through a government-owned community water system. All around the world, global corporations are earning large profits by selling water to people while hurting the environment.

GOING BEYOND THE BOTTLE

Compiled by Amanda Vender, Sheba Sethi and Akira Tanaka

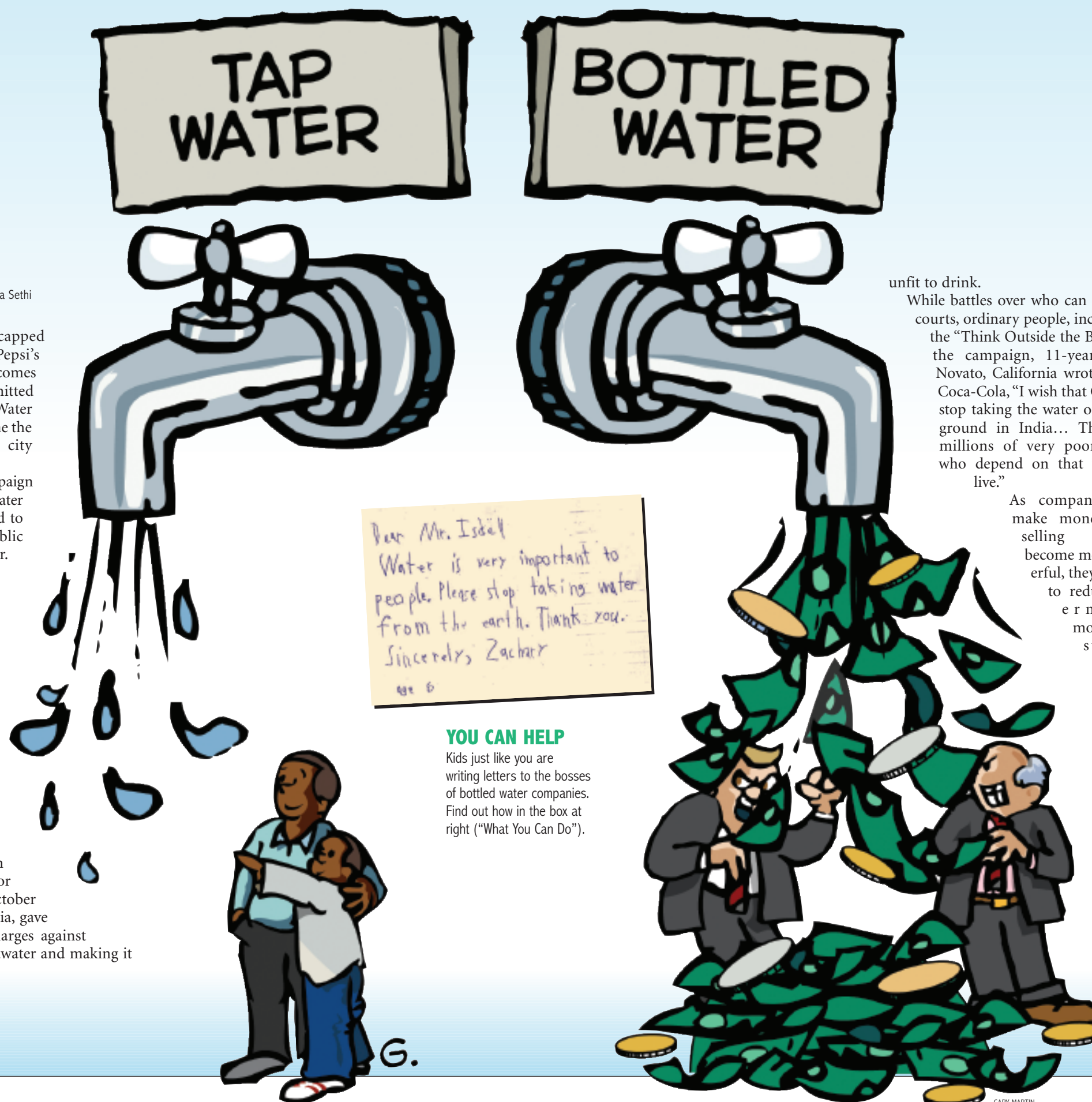
In spite of images of snow-capped mountains on its label, Pepsi's Aquafina brand water really comes from the tap. In July Pepsi admitted this fact and agreed to put "Public Water Source" on the Aquafina label. In June the mayor of San Francisco banned city spending on bottled water.

This is all part of a growing campaign to limit the power of bottled water companies and to protect public sources of water.

Bottled water corporations sometimes take so much water that they put the local water supply and environment in danger.

water supply and environment in danger.

In Michigan local residents challenged Nestle in court because they were concerned that the company was taking so much water that it was damaging the environment. In India Coca-Cola leaves little water for the local farmers. In addition, in October the state government in Kerala, India, gave notice that it may file criminal charges against Coca-Cola for polluting the groundwater and making it



YOU CAN HELP

Kids just like you are writing letters to the bosses of bottled water companies. Find out how in the box at right ("What You Can Do").

unfit to drink.

While battles over who can use water take place in the courts, ordinary people, including kids, are involved in the "Think Outside the Bottle" campaign. As part of the campaign, 11-year-old Nicholas Grech of Novato, California wrote to the chief executive of Coca-Cola, "I wish that Coca-Cola Company would stop taking the water out of the ground in India... They have millions of very poor people who depend on that water to live."

As companies that make money from selling water become more powerful, they are able to reduce government money that supplies

Says Patti Lynn of the "Think Outside the Bottle" campaign, "Water is a human right, not a privilege."

public water systems. This means that corporations rather than governments control and profit from water. The World Bank, which offers loans to poor countries, often requires that countries privatize their water systems in order to get a loan. Says Patti Lynn of the "Think Outside the Bottle" campaign, "There is no substitute for public water. Water is a human right, not a privilege."



BOTTLED OR TAP — WHICH IS SAFER?

The tap water from your faucet is tested for safety by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Bottled water is tested by a totally different agency, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Even though bottled water companies may suggest that their products are safer than tap water, the EPA's safety standards are generally much stricter than the FDA's.

For example, bottled water is not tested for several **microbes** (organisms that can make you sick if you ingest them), but tap water is.

The EPA is also required by law to monitor the levels of dozens of **contaminants**, or chemicals that can make you sick, in tap water. The FDA does not test bottled water for several contaminants, including the harmful mineral asbestos and the cancer-causing chemical benzene.



The parasites *Cryptosporidium* (left) and *Giardia* are tested for in tap water, but not in bottled water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✦ Learn more about water and educate your friends. For more information, visit www.stopcorporateabuse.org.
- ✦ Don't buy bottled waters and drinks. Drink from the water fountain or carry a refillable bottle.
- ✦ If you do have to buy bottled water, then make sure to recycle the plastic container.
- ✦ Ask local restaurants to stop serving bottled water and to serve tap water instead.
- ✦ Write to the chief executives of bottled water corporations to tell them to be honest about the source of their water and to not pollute the environment:

CEO Neville Isdell
The Coca-Cola Company
1 Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta, GA 30313

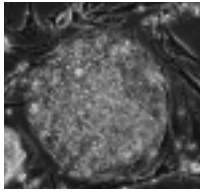
CEO Indra Nooyi
Pepsico Inc.
700 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577

CEO Kim E. Jeffery
Nestlé USA Inc.
800 North Brand Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91203

- ✦ Hold a tap water challenge. Challenge your classmates to see if they can tell the difference between tap water and bottled water.

science briefs

Prize for Stem Cell Research



A colony of human stem cells.

The 2007 Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded to Mario R. Capecchi, Martin J. Evans and Oliver Smithies for the work they have done in stem cell research.

There are many different types of cells in the body (liver or kidney, for example). A stem cell is a cell that has not yet developed into its final form and could eventually become any type of cell. Research on stem cells has the potential to help us cure diseases and disabilities in the future, but is opposed by some religious groups. —SS



More Melting Ice

Record amounts of the ice covering the Arctic Sea in the North Pole melted this summer due to higher temperatures caused by global warming. The Arctic Sea covers a large area north of Canada, Russia and Greenland. The changing temperature has made it harder for local wildlife, like polar bears, to survive. —ET

Fun Facts!

Ostriches are related to dinosaurs.

Their tissue is similar to Tyrannosaurus rex tissue. An ostrich's eyeball is bigger than its brain. It is actually a myth that ostriches bury their head in the sand when they see predators. They just rest their head on the sand in order to blend in. —SS



WILDANIMALSONLINE.COM

'The Pill' for Middle Schoolers

A Portland, Maine school board has approved a measure that allows middle school students to receive birth control pills from the student



health center. Birth control pills are taken by women to prevent pregnancy. Some parents are concerned that they will not know if their child gets

birth control pills and feel that middle schoolers are too young to receive such services. Supporters of the measure point to seventeen pregnancies at the three local middle schools in the last four years and believe the new policy fills a need for counseling and birth control services. —SS

FALL MOVIE PREVIEW



BEE MOVIE

In this animated movie a bee is miserable at his new job making honey until he falls in love and decides to sue humans for stealing the bees' honey.



MARTIAN CHILD

A science fiction writer adopts a child after his wife dies and strange events make him think that the boy's claim that he is from Mars might be true.

Sharkwater: A Gentler Side of Jaws

By Amanda Vender

A person is more likely to be killed by an elephant than by a shark. So why are people so afraid of them? The media makes sharks look dangerous. "The more time I spent with sharks, I realized they're nothing like what we're told," said Canadian photographer Rob Stewart. This inspired him to make a movie about sharks.

REVIEW

Sharkwater opens in U.S. movie theaters on November 2.

The documentary is full of beautiful and colorful underwater scenes from the oceans of South America. Stewart is a biologist trained in handling sharks, so we see him swimming with and touching sharks underwater. The movie tells us that sharks are in big trouble. They are threatened by a big fishing business that kills sharks just for their fins to make a delicacy, shark fin soup. Recent studies show that the shark population around the world has declined by ninety percent.

Killing sharks hurts humans too. Sharks are at the top of the food chain in the oceans. They eat smaller animals and help ensure that phytoplankton survive. This plant produces oxygen and consumes carbon dioxide (CO₂), which leads to global warming. "If we lose sharks we disrupt the oxygen we need to breathe," says Stewart.

The movie doesn't make connections to the many other threats to oceans such as pollution and global warming. It does not offer a critique of our economic system that values profit over protecting the environment. Nor does it paint much of a solution to the problem, though it urges people to learn more and get involved. But watching the movie we learn how gentle sharks are and how this one part of the web of life is important to our survival.

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For more information about shark conservation and ideas on what you can do, visit www.savingsharks.com



SHARKWATER.COM

Exploring the World in Sixty Poems

By Mallory Jensen

Have you heard of Annie Peck? How about Maria Sibylla Merian? Or Zheng He? If not, don't feel bad — they were brave explorers of the past, but many people don't remember them. In *Trailblazers*, a book of poems by Bobbi Katz, you get to meet them and more than sixty other men and women who traveled far and wide to see new things and meet new people.

The idea of a historical poem might seem strange, but Katz speaks in the voice of the explorer or someone who met or traveled with the explorer, making the poems less like history lessons



REVIEW

TRAILBLAZERS Poems of Exploration

By Bobbi Katz
Greenwillow Books

and more like powerful descriptions of the time and place.

In "Genghis Khan," Katz puts the words of two of the Mongol emperor's army commanders side by side to make you feel like you're part of the action. In "John Ross and James Clark Ross," a Polar Inuit woman in the North Arctic describes her feelings as the British

explorers arrive in her land.

The poems are ordered chronologically, from Adam and Eve and Queen Hatshepsut of ancient Egypt to Sylvia Earle, a deep-sea explorer still working today.

Reading the poems might make you want to know more about the explorers, so you will be happy to see short biographies of each explorer in the back of the book. You may want to know even more about a few of them and be inspired to research them. By combining poetry and history this way, *Trailblazers* is an enjoyable and unusual chance to be introduced to a group of courageous explorers.

Diwali: Festival of Lights

By Anitha and Anusha

Diwali simply means “festival of lights.” It is the only festival that is celebrated throughout India. Two girls from India tell us about the holiday:

“**D**iwali is a joyous occasion, particularly for the children as it brings them new clothes, home prepared sweets and above all firecrackers.

It is a common belief that a devil called Narakasura was killed by Lord Krishna to relieve the mankind of his misdeeds. All Hindus celebrate the event every year as a happy occasion. It is usually celebrated on a new moon day during the month of October or November.

I have seen the Diwali festival since my childhood days and it is always a joyous occasion for me. I used to meet all my close relatives and friends and exchange greetings. I would set off firecrackers all though the night, get up early in the morning, take a good bath and taste the sweets prepared by my grandmother. We used to seek the blessings of our grandparents and they usually gave me some gift to make the occasion memorable.”

—ANITHA, 19, FROM BANGALORE, INDIA



This girl is using a diya (lamp made out of clay) to light candles. During Diwali, candles are lit all over the house in hopes of enticing Lakshmi, the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, to bless the house for the upcoming year.

“**T**his festival has a story. There used to be a demon called Narakasura who harassed sages and innocent people. People did not light their houses in fear of Narakasura. On the occasion when Narakasura was killed people celebrated by lighting many lamps and fire-

crackers. The day after Narakasura was killed is Diwali. On Diwali, everyone wakes up early in the morning. They get an oil massage, take a bath and wear new clothes. They make special dishes and sweets and have a lot of fun.”

—ANUSHA, 12, FROM ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

letters to the editor

The following letters were submitted by sixth graders at the Secondary School for Law in Brooklyn, NY in response to the *IndyKids* cover story (Issue #11) on the case of the Jena Six students in Louisiana.

I think it was unfair that the Jena Six were charged with murder and may face a lifetime in prison while the whites only spent a couple of days in detention. My opinion is that African Americans should be treated more fairly. I also think all types of races should come together and fight for the Jena Six. —JADA

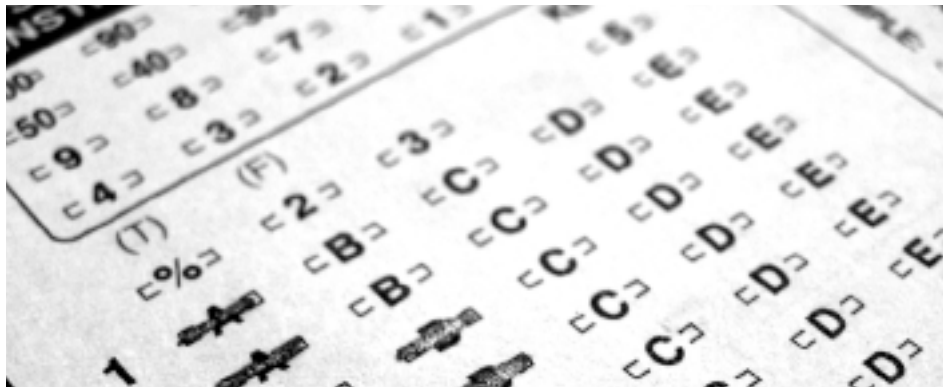
I can't stand the racism in Jena, Louisiana. I think that the black people should be treated the same way as white people because white people wouldn't like it if they were being treated unfairly. —DAISY

I can't believe all of the racism that is going on in the world. I believe if somebody does something it should not be based on their color but on what they did. —JAHNASIA

I think everyone should protest racism and nonsense wherever it appears. —ABNER



WILTON SAYS ... IT'S YOUR TURN
E-mail *IndyKids* at indykids@indymedia.org or write to P.O. Box 1417, New York NY 10276



Students Are Not Scores

The Story of One Student Who Boycotted the Test

By Mia Kang

As a freshman in high school, I refused to take my state's required standardized test, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS test. I felt that most of my time in school was spent memorizing facts. I saw students bored by doing worksheets instead of creative projects and teachers limited by strict test score requirements. It seemed to me that standardized testing was the driving force behind the problems that I saw, and in response, I boycotted the TAKS.

In Texas the TAKS test is required for graduation from high school. In refusing to take the test I understood that I would not receive a diploma at the end of my twelfth grade year. I left high school early and attended a community college where I earned high school and

college credit at the same time. Boycotting the test risked my diploma, but I believed it was the right thing to do. I have been in contact with two other students who took similar action and did not graduate, but who are now attending college anyway.

While I chose to act by not taking the TAKS, there are infinite ways for students to speak out and work to improve the education system. What do you want from your education? What can you do in your school to create change — even just within one classroom? Immense potential lies in the fact that students are not scores — we are thinking individuals. Beginning within our own communities we can create simple ways to improve our schools that will build toward new visions for education across the country.

Mia Kang, 17, is from San Antonio, Texas.

Moving to a New Place

By Katie Herbst

Think of your life right now — your friends, your home, everything you love, your favorite sport, everything that means something to you. Now, think of losing all of that. Think of leaving your friends, getting a new home, and going to a place where they don't play the games and sports that you love.

You have just imagined your own take on moving. Maybe you felt sad, or maybe hopeful. It depends on who you are, but no matter what, when you move to a new place you experience change.

Sometimes, change is hard. I miss my friends. I'll never forget buying fries from a restaurant near school only for my buddies to become vultures and steal them all. The drama club at my new school is so big, and the kids aren't as quirky. It has been a hard transition, but that's all it is in the long run, a transition. I have met many kinds of people here. In the end, the move has made me stronger and more aware of my country, which I love.

Without change, there's no chance to learn or thrive. It makes you ask questions like “What if...?” or “How can...?” Questions send you on a quest for knowledge, the greatest gift of all. So, use your imagination. Think again about how it might be if you had to leave your life and begin a new one. Is the future bright, or are you sad about the difference? What can you do so that the change is positive?

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Katie Herbst is a 10th grader who recently moved from upstate New York to Knoxville, Tennessee.

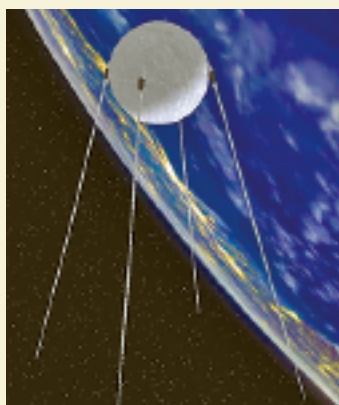


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GARY MARTIN

What Am I?



1. I am an artificial satellite weighing about 183 pounds.
2. I was launched into space by the Soviet Union, now called Russia, on October 4, 1957.
3. I circled the earth every 96 minutes, making a "beep beep beep" sound over amateur radio.
4. My launch during the "Cold War" shocked the United States and led to the creation of NASA as the United States hurried to outdo Soviet space technology.

—DB

Answer: I am Sputnik 1.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Time for a pop quiz! Can you figure out which of the statements below are **true**, **false** or **an opinion**?

1. Three-fourths of the human body is made up of water.
2. Before it gets to your faucet, the Environmental Protection Agency tests tap water for microbes.
3. Chess champion grandmaster Garry Kasparov is running for President of the United States.
4. In the United States, the gap between the rich and the poor is wider than it has been since the 1920s.
5. Teenage girls should be allowed to get birth control pills without their parents being notified.
6. Cheesecake filling can be made with sugar, cream cheese, vanilla and sour cream.

Answer: 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T

kids' recipe



Easy No-Bake Cinnamon-Spice Cheesecake

INGREDIENTS

- ❖ 6 sheets of cinnamon graham crackers
- ❖ 8 ounces cream cheese (1 regular block)
- ❖ ½ cup sugar
- ❖ 1 cup sour cream
- ❖ 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ❖ 8 ounces frozen whipped topping
- ❖ 9-inch pre-made pie crust
- ❖ 10 spice cookies or gingersnaps

1 Put the graham crackers in a thick plastic bag and zip it closed. Use a book or your hands to crumble the crackers into tiny pieces.

2 Place the cream cheese in a big glass bowl and microwave it for one minute until it is a little softened.

3 Add the sugar to the cream cheese and mix well. Add the sour cream and vanilla and stir together completely.

4 Use a spatula to gently stir in the whipped topping and the crumbled crackers.

5 Spoon the mixture into the pie crust. Smooth the top with the spatula.

6 Break the spice cookies up into small bits about the size of a dime and sprinkle them evenly over the pie filling.

7 Chill the pie in the fridge for 4-5 hours or until it is firm on top.

8 Carefully slice it into 10 pieces and enjoy! —MJ

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